

The mounting toll of dead and injured in automobile accidents in the southwest Arkansas section of U. S. 67 suggests that the state government should lower the speed limit to a level commensurate with the highway.

For the last section of U. S. 67 is unsafe. The shoulders of the road are impassable between Hope and Texarkana. Dozens of cars and trucks have missed down during wet weather, churning last week by a startling local tragedy which was certainly due in part to the fact that the highway shoulders can't be used when it is necessary to dodge an oncoming car.

I found out something Sunday when I drove to Little Rock to attend the Winter meeting of the Associated Press. U. S. 67 is a destroyed highway between Prescott and Gurdon. There are holes all over the paved lanes. Maintenance men are busy replacing entire slabs of concrete in the squares in a slab and plugging the holes with cement—the result being that the reinforcement steel which holds each slab together was exposed. Then the rains came, a heavy truck wheel knocked the patch loose from the rest of the slab, and now once fine U. S. 67 is like a house with water pouring through the roof—going to wrack and ruin before our eyes.

I think all of our citizens write or telephone Governor Ben Laney at once and ask for special speed restrictions on 67 between Hope and Texarkana, and between Prescott and Gurdon. Huge state billboards ought to be erected at either end of these dangerous passages warning the public that 35 or 40 miles an hour is the limit of safe driving—and especially in wet weather. It would work a special hardship on the state trooper who is patrolling the road to be instructed to establish warning patrols at each billboard when the weather is bad.

What I have in mind is the unfairness of our highway situation for out-of-state motorists. Yesterday I was passed by many non-Arkansas drivers who couldn't possibly know about the highway disaster that has fallen upon us, and therefore had no warning of either bad road conditions or slow moving traffic.

This newspaper is not normally in the business of restricting highway speeds, for such action most certainly will discourage travel and hurt business; but when human life is at stake you have no other course.

Myers' Congress Timetable

Might Be Speed Improvement

By JAMES THRASHER

The end of an average session of the United States Congress finds the members working like so many diligent students at the close of an examination time. They do a lot of cramming to cover work that should have been done months before. And while they may get final efforts at best are often ill-considered.

For example, the last-minute haste of the 80th Congress may have helped to defeat the Republicans in this month's elections. In voting on a 10-hour appropriation for the Commodity Credit Corporation, the GOP-controlled Congress failed to vote the CCC funds for additional storage for farm products.

The farmers meanwhile had harvested bumper crops of grain. But this surplus harvest had to be stored in government-approved space in order to make it eligible for support prices. Congress didn't supply the space. The farmers stood to lose money and the government capitalized on this fact. That was the big reason why the GOP lost that "state" rural vote in Ohio, Illinois and Iowa. Without those states' 63 electoral votes Mr. Truman would not have had the required number to give him an undisputed victory.

Sen. Francis J. Myers of Pennsylvania, being a Democrat, probably is happy about the above incident. But he also knows that the embarrassing results of hasty legislation can work both ways. And he realizes that haste can be bad for the whole country. So, in the interest of safety and efficiency, he has proposed a mild remedy.

He would require legislation on a time table basis. The majority leaders of both houses, the committee chairmen and ranking minority members of committees would meet early in each session and formulate legislation. This legislation would be reviewed each 30 days, and if necessary, revised. There would be "goal" dates for committee hearings, for full consideration of bills and for a vote on them.

The Myers proposal would include all appropriation bills as well as other legislation. And it would strive to eliminate the evil of attaching irrelevant legislative riders to appropriations in the final rush.

Sen. Myers' plan would bring about some much-needed reforms, we should like to feel more encouraged about it than we do. But it will have to buck the opposition of tradition, indifference and reluctance which has kept the recent congressional reorganization from working as well as it might and should.

In addition, there are practical difficulties, as Mr. Myers is aware. Unseen and urgent bills, investigation and presidential appointments could throw the timetable off schedule. And it is not likely that the Myers plan would move the Senate to surrender its cherished right to filibuster.

Still the idea might work some improvement. The legislative schedule, if adopted, should receive wide publicity. It could then become part of the Congress' record, and contribute a clearer history of various pieces of legislation. With the plan working even moderately well, the public would have a better idea of which members of Congress were dragging their feet, and why.

Scholars believe that the gray tribes have been wandering across Europe since the 15th century are remnants of an ancient tribe from India.

## Connally Sees Quick End to Berlin Blockade

Washington, Nov. 29 (AP)—Senator Connally (D-Tex.) today voiced a personal belief that "the Russian blockade of Berlin will be lifted soon."

Connally, who will again be chairman of the foreign relations committee when Democrats organize the senate said, however, he was not speaking "with authority."

In his first news conference since returning from Texas, Connally also expressed belief that the blockade would be lifted soon.

(1) The senate foreign relations committee will take quick action in January on a western defense pact.

(2) That no American troops will be sent to aid China.

(3) That any agreement on the Berlin currency issue must be reached with joint control set up to guarantee no nation would be injured financially.

Connally said there must be a joint control of any currency distributed in Berlin before an agreement is reached. This has been a troublesome point in the Berlin blockade.

Connally said the "row over the Russian blockade of Berlin" does not justify the cost of the airlift to feed Berlin and not "relieve us of any threats of conflict."

He said he was confident that agreement will be reached although he insisted he was not speaking for the administration.

He said his trip to Europe this fall had left him with the strong impression that the Berlin situation has "brightened up" and there will be settlement.

It was Connally's opinion that agreement will be reached for the Russian mark to circulate in Berlin with the Russians lifting the blockade.

He would remove the need of the costly air force airlift which has been used to carry supplies into the beleaguered city.

Two top civilian advisors to the president, it was learned today, have carried this campaign against high defense costs right into military headquarters at the pentagon. Their talks were delivered to a seminar of leading citizens early this month but were not then publicly reported.

Chairman Edwin G. Nourse of the president's council of economic advisors warned that if the military budget rises to "a level of 18 or 20 billions, there are bound to be important repercussions on the economy."

Mr. Truman said last month that the armed forces had requested \$23,000,000 for the 1950 fiscal year starting July 1.

Nourse told the pentagon group: "If we project a substantially larger set of military spending for rearming ourselves and perhaps western Europe and some other countries, it is clear that new forces of inflation would be unleashed."

Nourse said this development likely would require:

1. Price control "of quite extensive scope."

2. Either higher taxes or inflationary deficit spending by the government.

3. Allocation and other type controls over scarce materials.

4. Manpower controls to meet shortages in industries where more labor already is needed.

Budget Director James E. Webb, it was learned, also stressed some of the same points to the pentagon group, with emphasis on possible disruption of sound government fiscal policy.

In this pentagon talk, said Nourse, "those entrusted with our foreign relations must be wise as serpents and harmless as doves so that the need for military effort shall be held or reduced to the lowest possible point."

He urged the men "entrusted with the military effort" to "direct every dollar to the point of greatest effectiveness, and forego every outlay based on traditional practice, corps pride, or dispensable ceremony."

Two key members of the new have put themselves on record in favor of holding military costs to the minimum required for national defense foreign policy commitments.

Along this line Senator Tydings (D-Md.) who is due to become house appropriations committee chairman, told reporters over the week end that the new Congress must hold down expenditures "as never before."

Defense items, he said, will be "subjected to the harshest scrutiny."

Despite the money uncertainty, Cannon said he hopes to trim the budget through "spartan economy" that will take out "everything that can be dispensed with."

Along this line Senator Tydings (D-Md.) who is due to become chairman of the senate armed services committee, last Friday told a reporter:

"We must keep America strong and the world at peace, but do that with the idea that the taxpayer also must survive."

"We will cut out every bit of military expense that is not fully justified," Tydings added.

Others answering the questions were Lt. Gov. Nathan Gordon, House Speaker-designate Carl Hayden, Secretary of State C. G. Hall, Attorney General-elect H. M. Murray.

Hendrix and Gordon said the two chief clerical employees of the general assembly probably will return to their posts in the 1949 legislative session.

This referred to Ted McCastain, who was secretary of the senate, and Hendrix and Hall were guest speakers at a luncheon. The Arkansas Democrat and the Arkansas Gazette were hosts.

## Electoral College Change Supported by Fulbright

Washington, Nov. 29 (AP)—Senator Fulbright (D-Ark.) said today he will join Senator Lodge (R-Mass.) in sponsoring legislation to revise the electoral college setup.

The Lodge proposal is to divide a state's electoral vote in proportion to the popular vote cast in that state for presidential candidates. At present the candidate getting the most votes in a state wins all of its electoral votes.

Lodge presented his proposal at the last session of congress and plans to re-introduce it next year. He has asked various senators to join him. Fulbright told a reporter today he will become a co-sponsor.

"This proposal tends to diminish the importance of small minorities in states with large electoral votes," Fulbright said, "and provides a fairer system of election a president."

In a close election, he said, a small minority could swing New York's entire 47 electoral votes to the Republican candidate.

But under the Lodge proposal, he said, the two principal parties would share the electoral votes in proportion to the popular vote they received and the minority group would come in for a small fraction.

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This may not be popular with the AFL and CIO, whose conventions demanded outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley act and restoration of the Wagner act. Both big labor groups shied they were willing to proceed with "reasonable" changes after the Wagner act is re-enacted but they want that as the starting point.

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## Truman Aides Planning New Labor Policy

Washington, Nov. 29 (AP)—President Truman and his labor lieutenants begin today to shape the labor policy of his new administration.

Chief item, because of the Truman campaign pledges, is repeal of the Taft-Hartley act and writing a new labor law.

Setting the stage for that today, a team of labor department attorneys was ready with a report to Mr. Truman on what should go into his "state of the union" message to the new congress in January.

The lawyers, skilled at industrial relations and drafting of laws, were selected by Secretary of Labor Maurice Tobin to draw up the recommendations.

They will propose that Mr. Truman appeal to the new democratic controlled house and senate to junk the Taft-Hartley act opposed by labor leaders — and substitute a compromise which would merge some features of the 1947 law and the Wagner act of 1935.

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## Heroic Mother Saves Son From Fire

Searcy, Nov. 29 (AP)—Two year-old Paul Gentry, Jr., is alive today because his young mother won a race against fire.

The youngster was carried from his parents' burning apartment near here yesterday a few minutes before his eight-month old sister died in the inferno.

The woman, Mrs. Paul Gentry, Sr., 25, rescued her son as the flames engulfed the second-story apartment. She made an attempt to re-enter the building to bring out the infant but was held back by firemen.

The tragedy occurred at Kensett, Ark., a small community four miles east of here. Four buildings in the town's business section were destroyed by the fire.

Mrs. Gentry was not in the apartment when the fire broke out. She had gone to a nearby restaurant a few minutes earlier. Neither she nor her son was hurt.

Firemen said origin of the blaze was undetermined. The body of the baby was removed from the ruins.

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## Fight for China Shifting to Capital Area

Nanking, Nov. 29 (AP)—The critical battle for central China appeared today to be shifting from Suichow to the very approaches of this Chinese capital.

It was learned reliably that the estimated 250,000 Nationalist troops at Suichow, defense bastion for Nanking, have been ordered to withdraw southward to engage the main Chinese Communist force.

The outcome of the entire battle for Nanking may depend on the ability of the Suichow garrison to make the withdrawal. The Reds are concentrating in the areas of Suichow and Pongshu, rail cities on Nanking's approaches.

There has been no indication that the withdrawal order is being carried out—as yet — although it was made several days ago. Suichow still is getting supplies by planes, which are taking out wounded.

Officials sources later confirmed issuance of the withdrawal order. However, Nanking observers suggested that Nationalist commanders at Suichow are reluctant to leave the tons of munitions and supplies that have been stockpiled there in the past several months.

Should Suichow commanders ignore the orders from the capital—and continue to leave the largest body of troops left to Chiang Kai-shek—The Reds will be free to polish off other, smaller units one by one, and attack Suichow whenever ready.

The government's 12th army group, which moved up from Hankow in an effort to reinforce Suichow, was reported encircled by Red columns about 12 miles south of Suichow.

China's small navy assigned six patrol boats to guard the Yangtze to prevent any Communist infiltration across the vital river.

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BLONDIE

ALEXANDER WHERE IS YOUR MOMIC INFANTRY DISINTEGRATOR PISTOL THAT SQUITS WATER?

IT'S UP IN MY ROOM, POP

YOU SAVE THIRTY CENTS BY BUYING THE LARGE BOTTLE

GEE, MODERN SCIENCE IS A WONDERFUL THING

By Chick Young

OZARK IKE

JUST A REMINDER THAT THE PROFESSOR WILL KEEP HIS PREDICTIONS IN THE GROOVE—STAY IN THE GROOVE—WILDCATS 2-CYCLOES 0

"THE DOLL"

SOUNDS LIKE A PITCHU'S DUEL, OZARK... SOME BUDDY OUGHTA TELL HIM TH' BASEBALL SEASON'S OVUH!

JUS' ONE TOW HDOWN, AN' TH' GENT'S A GONER... GOOD THING HE NEVVH MISSES!

IMPRISONED IN A PENTHOUSE... BUT ONLY I KNOW THAT MY FORECASTING SYSTEM HAS FAILED COMPLETELY...

OH, YEAH?

AND THAT THE DOLL AND HER MOB WON PURELY BY ACCIDENT LAST WEEK...

SO I'LL DIE HAPPY, AFTER THE TRIMMING THEY TAKE FOR BETTING ON THIS RIDICULOUSLY LOW SCORE I'VE DREAMED UP!

By Michael O'Malley & Ralph Lane

SIDE GLANCES

"Yes, I know what the mama bear said to the papa bear, and if you do, too, let me get on with my war!"

By Galbraith

CARNIVAL

"Confound it, Slug, you're makin' enough money to afford a sitter on your old lady's bingo nights!"

By Dick Turner

FUNNY BUSINESS

"A birthday present—now you can throw that nasty bugle away!"

By Mershberger

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

WILDA!!

BUT, I WAS JUST PRACTICING A LITTLE JUMP STEP! YOU KNOW OUR CLASS HOP IS COMING UP SOON!

I WON'T HAVE YOU ACTING LIKE A SAVAGE! I GUESS MODERN KIDS NEVER HEARD OF THE WALTZ!

GET INTO THE KITCHEN AND TACKLE THOSE DISHES—AND FORGET THOSE EMPTY-HEADED DANCE STEPS!

ALL RIGHT, DADDY—JUST WATCH YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE!

THIMBLE THEATER

FORGOT WHAT, POPEYE?? I CHECKED THE EQUIPMENT LIST CAREFULLY!!

C'MON, YOU'LL SEE!!

SHOULD WE PUT 'IM UP IN THE ICEHOUSE??

By Blosser

POPEYE

WELL, COACH, THE SEASON IS OVER AN' YU DIDN' LOSE A GAME!!

I JUST LEFT IT TO LUMMOX!!

HELMETS, FOOTBALLS, UNIFORMS, SHOES—YOU EVERYTHING IS STORED AWAY UNTIL NEXT YEAR!!

FORGOT SUMPIN', ROCKY!!

FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT

By Edgar Martin

OUT OUR WAY

I DISLIKE TO MEDDLER, BUT YOU ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE ABOVE SUCH A BASE TRICK AS STEALING A FRIEND'S GIRL!

YOU ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE ABOVE ME IN INTELLIGENCE, BUT I DOUBT IT, CUZ I THOUGHT OF THIS FIRST! IF SOMEONE IS AFTER HER, WE'RE THRU HAVIN' TO SET DIET EX-AMPLES FOR HIM—AN' TH' AWFUL JOB OF GETTIN' HIM UP—HE'LL BE WATCHIN' ME!

By J. R. Williams

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

WHERE IS THIS MAJOR HOOPLE?—I WANT THE \$55 THAT HE CHEASED OUT OF MY GOURD-HEAD HUSBAND!—TROT THAT BIG CROOK OUT HERE AND I'LL PUNCH DOUGHNUT HOLES IN HIS FAT NECK!

THAT DENTAL BOMB CHAIRED ALL MY TEETH—I GOT A MOUTHFUL OF BLACK KEYS!

HOOPLE? OH, YES—HEAVYSET MAN WITH BAGGY TROUSERS!—WHY, HE LEFT YESTER-DAY FOR THE HIMA-LAYAS TO SET OUT HIS CHIPMUNK TRAPS!

With Major Hoople

BUGS BUNNY

ARE YOU SURE DOING THIS WILL HELP ME LOSE WEIGHT?

A CATCH, THEN ROUNDS OFF RIGHT AROUND HERE!

WEIGHT CHART

TH-THAT PAN OF WATER YOU'RE FEATING UNDER NAME FEELS AWFUL HOT BROUZZ!

I'LL GRAB A GANDER AT IT!

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO STAY IN HERE?

QUITE A WHILE YET, DOC...

THESE WIENIES AREN'T NOWHERES NEAR DONE!

By Edgar Martin



